

Filed for intro on 03/11/2002

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 727  
By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Williamson Chapel  
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church for 116  
years of outstanding Christian service.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause in its deliberations and recognize those venerable religious institutions and their congregations who, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, strive to enhance the lives of the people in their community; and

WHEREAS, the good people of the Williamson Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Wilson County comprise one such congregation, as they will celebrate the church's 116<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on April 21, 2002; and

WHEREAS, the congregation of the Williamson Chapel C.M.E Church is an essential part of the Needmore community; and

WHEREAS, throughout its esteemed history, the members of this congregation have proven to be excellent stewards of the physical and spiritual gifts bestowed upon them by God; and

HJR0727

01259485

WHEREAS, as God has continued to bless them, the Williamson Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church has striven to expand its facilities and services to meet the needs of the congregation and the Needmore community; these improvements have greatly enhanced the congregation's ability to meet the Lord's decree to serve His people; and

WHEREAS, following Jesus' command to "go ye forth and preach," the Williamson Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church is committed to "reaching, teaching and empowering people through the word of God"; in their laudable crusade, they draw inspiration from the outstanding leadership of the Reverend Woodrow W. Harris, Jr., the Right Reverend William H. Graves, and the Reverend Dr. Charles E. Winfrey, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, Williamson Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church has a long-established legacy of committed service to its community; they have taken to heart the words of St. Francis of Assisi: "Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words"; and

WHEREAS, the fine Christians who comprise the membership of the Williamson Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church personify Paul's words in I Corinthians 15:58, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."; and

WHEREAS, Williamson Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church is among those institutions in our great state upon which a just and orderly society is based; it is a focal point for our citizens to worship their Creator as a community of faith and from which they reach out to the secular community as a response to God's saving grace; and

WHEREAS, for nearly twelve decades many excellent leaders in both the religious and secular arena have emerged from the ranks of Williamson Chapel C.M.E. Church; and

WHEREAS, the Williamson Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church has significantly contributed to the social, cultural, and economic vitality of the Needmore community, Wilson County, and the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the Williamson Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church is truly one of the great religious organizations and catalysts for positive spiritual change in our State and Nation, and the members of this exceptional congregation should be appropriately honored for their exemplary service to their fellow Christians and to the good people of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the congregation of the Williamson Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church for their many years of service to God, their community, and to the State of Tennessee, and extend to them our best wishes as they embark on their next 116 years of service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.